

John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 924—Victim Allocation Clarification Act**

**H.R. 927—U.S. Marshals Service Improvement Act**

**H.R. 672—Technical Amendments to Copyright Laws**

**H.R. 514—District of Columbia Inspector General Improvement Act**

**H.R. 412—Oroville-Tonasket Claim Settlement Act**



## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following four bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.R. 924—Victim Allocation Clarification Act** protects crime victims' rights to attend the trial of their assailants by amending current law provisions found in Title 18 of the U.S. Code. Specifically, current law allows crime victims to participate in the punishment phase of their assailants trial, providing what is called "victim impact" testimony, but has been used by some federal judges to prevent them from attending the fact-finding phase, or guilt phase, of the trial. H.R. 924 clarifies existing law to express congressional intent to allow crime victims and their families to participate in the guilt-phase of a trial when it would not cause undue influence on the testimony of others in the proceedings. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant effect on the federal budget. H.R. 924 was introduced by Mr. McCollum and Mr. Schumer and reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote on March 12, 1997.

**H.R. 927—U.S. Marshals Service Improvement Act** grants the U.S. Attorney General the power to directly appoint U.S. Marshals, changing current law which allows the president to make appointments with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate. Additionally, the bill requires appointees to be current Deputy Marshals and subjects all marshals to the same disciplinary guidelines as other Marshals Service employees. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. McCollum and Mr. Schumer and was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote.

**H.R. 672—Technical Amendments to Copyright Laws** makes technical changes to several different copyright provisions found in Title 17 of the U.S. Code. Changes made by the bill are merely technical and corrective in nature, and are not meant to alter any substantive portions of current law. H.R. 672 arises from a long-term need to update several older copyright law provisions or to ensure that the original congressional intent behind the provisions remains clear. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 672 will result in mandatory outlays of \$5 million as well as revenues of \$5 million over the next five years, resulting in no net spending through FY 2002. Because the bill affects direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. The bill was introduced by Mr. Coble and was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote.

**H.R. 514—District of Columbia Inspector General Improvement Act** amends the 1978 District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act to waive residency requirements for the employees of the city's Inspector General's office. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 514 will result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill was introduced by Mr. Davis (VA) and Ms. Norton and reported by voice vote by the Government Reform & Oversight Committee.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #7, March 14, 1997.



## **H.R. 412—Oroville-Tonasket Claim Settlement and Conveyance Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will vote on H.R. 412 after it completes consideration of the scheduled suspensions. Last Wednesday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Resources Committee. The rule grants priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The rule also provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 412 approves a settlement agreement reached between U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District to avoid litigation over disputes arising from the construction of the Oroville-Tonasket Unit Extension. Under the terms of the settlement, the district will release and discharge all past and future claims against the U.S. associated with the project. In return, the federal government will transfer the title to the irrigation works to the district and release it from its repayment obligation. The parties reached a settlement agreement on April 1, 1995, and executed the agreement on April 15, 1996. Implementation of the settlement agreement requires congressional authorization by April 15, 1997, to enable both parties to pursue litigation, if

needed, before the June 1997 statute of limitations runs out on the contract dispute. CBO estimates that enactment will result in savings to the federal government; however, the level of savings could not be fully determined. H.R. 412 was introduced by Mr. Hastings and ordered reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote.

**Views:**

**Republican Leadership:** Supports

**Chairman Young:** Supports

**President Clinton:** No Position Available

**Amendments:** At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendment to H.R. 412:

**Mr. Miller** may offer an amendment to require the irrigation district to pay fair market value to obtain the title to the irrigation system. The fair market value would be determined by a three-member panel, with the irrigation district and the Interior Secretary each selecting one panel member. The third member would be selected by the other two members. *Staff Contact: Liz Bernbaum, x6-2311.*

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #6, March 7, 1997.




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